

Anaconda Historic District  
Hearst Free Library  
Forth and Main Streets  
Anaconda  
Deer Lodge County  
Montana

HABS No. MT-53-K

HABS  
MONT,  
12-ANAC,  
1-K-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ANACONDA HISTORIC DISTRICT  
HEARST FREE LIBRARY  
MT-53-K

HABS  
MONT,  
12-ANAC,  
1-K-

Date: 1898

Location: South East corner 4th Street and Main Street

Architect/Builder: Frank S. Van Trees, Architect  
J.C. Twohey, Superindendent

Owner: City of Anaconda

Significance: Built with funds donated by Phoebe Hearst (wife of George Hearst, San Francisco Financier), the Hearst Free Library stands as a beautiful monument to Anaconda's rich building history before the turn of the century. The two-story building was erected in 1898, on a lot measuring 150' by 140' at the corner of Main and Fourth Streets. The structure itself rests in the center of this lot and measures 72' by 75', facing on Fourth Street. Pressed brick and gray Gregson Granite were used for the exterior walls, foundation and trim. Eight granite steps, 38' long, lead up to a deep portico with an entablature resting on two massive granite columns carrying corinthian capitals. A heavy copper cornice rests upon a plain freize. When opened to the public in June 1898, the Hearst Free Library contained 2,175 volumes and carried the leading periodicals. Phoebe Hearst continued to maintain the Library between 1898 and 1903 at an approximate cost of \$7,000 per year. In 1903, Mrs. Hearst gave the Library to the City of Anaconda with a \$1,000 per year grant for three years, for the continued purchase of new books.

Shortly after its completion, a horizontal tubular boiler was installed in the Library's basement. Manufactured at the local Anaconda Compy Foundry Department (formerly the Tuttle Manufacturing and Supply Co.) this piece of heating equipment constituted the first licensed boiler in the State of Montana. A State Boiler Inspector's Certificate, dated 1899 and filed by Frank A. Burns, indicates that this boiler was safe to carry 25 pounds of steam per square inch. It currently rests intact and in situ in the newly restored library building.

Transmitted by: Monica E. Hawley, Historian, 1984